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I Arrived In This World A Bit Late

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I Arrived In This World A Bit Late

Jyoti Bachani

Saint Mary's College of California

About the Work:

Kunwar Nayaran was decorated with the Jnanpith, the highest literary award in 2005 and the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian honor in India, in 2009, and was well known Indian poet abroad with many translations of his work. This poem is a pithy way to describe the world we inhabit. It calls attention to the global climate crisis that is manifest in annual catastrophic weather events around the world, at the same time as there are climate change deniers. It also speaks of the ways in which we have organized ourselves into systems of exploitation and oppression. Before reading this poem at a workshop with over sixty tenured professors in the room, I asked if they had ever felt attacked at their place of work. Have you?

About the Author(s)

Jyoti Bachani PhD, is an associate professor of strategy and innovation at Saint Mary's College of California. She is the founder of the US chapter of International Humanistic Management Association, where she is the flag bearer for the use of Arts to Humanize Management. She is a former Fulbright Senior Research Scholar. Her expertise in case-writing is recognized internationally. She has been reading and translating Hindi poetry into English for twenty years and in the past four years has brought poetry and improv to the Academy of Management and other conferences. In April 2017, she was a featured poet for U.K. Poetry Society's Poetry@3 at Saint Giles in London. She is the founder of a group called Poetry of Diaspora of Silicon Valley that has met monthly since 2017, and since March 2020, has been meeting weekly to read poems in all languages. Some of her poems were published in the anthology called *Celebrating Creativity*, by Kaecey McCormick, the Cupertino Poet Laureate. She earned her PhD at London Business School and Masters in Management Science and Engineering at Stanford University. She is a graduate of St. Stephens College with a BS in Physics and of Faculty of Management Studies with an MBA from Delhi University.

I Arrived In This World A Bit Late

By then the entire world had been civilized
All forests had been razed
All animals had been killed
Rain had stopped
And burning like a ball of fire was this
Earth
In all four directions iron and concrete
Jungles of immense size had emerged
In which anyone could see
Several evolved ways by which
Humans were being hunted by humans.

Original in Hindi by Kunwar Narayan
Translation by Jyoti Bachani

हताशा से एक व्यक्ति बैठ गया था vyakti baith gaya tha by V

हताशा से एक व्यक्ति बैठ गया था
व्यक्ति को मैं नहीं जानता था
हताशा को जानता था
इसलिए मैं उस व्यक्ति के पास गया
मैंने हाथ बढ़ाया
मेरा हाथ पकड़कर वह खड़ा हुआ
मुझे वह नहीं जानता था
मेरे हाथ बढ़ाने को जानता था
हम दोनों साथ चले
दोनों एक दूसरे को नहीं जानते थे
साथ चलने को जानते थे।

कवि - विनोदकुमार शुक्ल
संकलन - अतिरिक्त नहीं